

THE CAMPAIGN OF 1805

(Part 1) *by Ian Barstow*

“January 1805 began with a rush of diplomacy unseen since the end of the Revolutionary Wars in Europe. The expansionist King Charles IV declared his interest in Egypt and began preparations for the invasion of that country. Four days later on the 7th of January the Sultan of Turkey responded to this apparent aggression - although he had no claim over Egypt himself - by announcing that in return he would “take Morocco under his wing”. The Spanish immediately began to show signs that distance would be no object in a war with anybody when their attention was drawn closer to home. The British government had decided to expand its navy. Britain and France were still at war and practically all British ships were tied up blockading French ports or prowling the English Channel looking for Dutch blockade runners. To facilitate British strategy against Napoleon more ships were needed. It would take a year for the Hull ship-yards to build any more vessels, and for the British this was simply too long to wait. They were certain that Napoleon would not drag his feet and thus they felt

that another direction was needed. Sitting in neutral Portugal’s capital, Lisbon, were 12 ships of the line. The British Special Envoy and general troubleshooter Lord Chamberlain was dispatched to Portugal with missives suggesting a closer political union between Britain and Portugal, and less conspicuous suggestions regarding the use of their fleet. Regrettably for the British the Portuguese were less than enthusiastic about this plan and when Chamberlain thought to press the issue with unambiguous threats Charles of Spain responded by telling Portugal that she would receive Spanish backing in the face of British Aggression. Thus, when Lord Chamberlain informed the Portuguese government that Britain would take what it required by force the Spanish ambassador informed Chamberlain that the British were now also at war with Spain.

Meanwhile, if this was not enough, on 18th January a remarkable happening occurred in the Italian minor state of the Romagna. Within hours two embassies from major European powers arrived claiming sovereignty over the country! Firstly the



Russians and then the Austrians advanced these proposals, thinly veiling military threats from nearby troops if the Romagna declined. On the face of it Austria was in a much stronger position to exert its will, with troops only a matter of days away in Venetia. However, a large Corps of Russians was on a 'training' exercise on the island of Corfu conveniently under the command of one of their senior generals, the Hanoverian mercenary Levin Bennigsen. Whilst the Italians dithered on a practically impossible decision the British poked their oar in by advising them that they could expect financial assistance if the Romagna were to reject both demands. Had they thought carefully about Britain's other commitments the Romagnese would surely have come to the conclusion that the British were prevaricating but a rush of Latin blood spilled over and the nature of the rejection provoked both Austria and Russia into immediate declarations of war on the Romagna.

When both Austria and Russia realised that they had acted in an identical fashion, instead of coming to an understanding they attempted a 'Mexican stand-off' with the result that relations became so strained that war between the two was declared over the ownership of the little Italian state.

Whilst all this was going on the French and Prussians were negotiating a carve up of Central Germany. The Prussians already controlled Saxony and their share of the spoils would initially be the independent counties that made up the state commonly referred to as the Duchies, along with Hesse. For their part the French would take Baden and Berg to add to Hanover, Kleves and the Palatinate which already enjoyed French rule. The Germans had little choice in the matter and were carved up without force.

Following all these aggressive moves various of the powers envisaged that peace would not last and they cast about for allies. Prussia and Russia signed a treaty with the proviso that the Russians would not expect any Prussian assistance against Austria. A similar alliance was made between Russia and Britain with the same condition. Seeing the way things were going France and Austria decided that mutual interest demand that they ally. The beginning of the year showed all the signs that chronic instability would once more ravage Europe."

Does all this seem very unfamiliar? It should, because this is not the history of Europe in 1805 that we all know. This was the beginning of a long running Napoleonic Wargaming campaign run by

the Wootton Bassett Group who actually extend between Swindon and Oxford. Initially the campaign was not intended for public consumption, however my habit of keeping a campaign diary meant that when I was looking around for a subject to write a series of articles on, this campaign became the obvious choice. To my knowledge a dissertation on a full Napoleonic campaign has not been written since Barry Van Danzig's five part series in Battle Magazine starting in November 1977! I for one enjoyed not only those articles, but indeed any on similar lines, such as Tony Bath's Hyboria in Battle/Military Modelling or John Bennett's Gussie in Lone Warrior. There is something fascinating in reading an alternate history, be it mythical or based on fact, and this is especially true when battle reports are prominent in the story along with explanations of the mechanics involved in the game. This is my intention. For my part the idea has been made more exciting because the campaign is ongoing, so I do not know the future myself!

The basis of the game is the superb Avalon Hill boardgame, Empires In Arms. Using this any campaign of the Napoleonic Wars can be fought, although the game is more suitable for large

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campaigns due to the map scale. It would be next to impossible to detail every rule in the game, so rather than try I will explain the outline along with any house rules employed. I would then encourage any reader interested in the period to get a copy of *Empires In Arms* for themselves.

The game can be played by up to seven players. We have five so two of the major powers are run at random using a chart. The countries and players are as follows:

Britain: Vic Chamberlain

France : Kevin Morgan

Russia : myself

Austria: Steve Maycock

Prussia: Rob Jones

Spain : auto-controlled

Turkey : auto-controlled

Each country's forces are split up into Corps and Fleets, along with garrison counters. All are broken down into strength points. each point equals one ship or 1000 men. The naval strengths proved irrelevant as it was decided to fight naval actions using the intrinsic game rules. However, the idea

behind the campaign was to provide meaningful tabletop battles so a system for converting strength points into army lists was required. As far as infantry and cavalry were concerned , the rules specify strength points (SP's) as to which they are. The difficulty was that apart from an artillery corps for France and Russia no gun strengths are accounted for. The problem was really a matter of ratio, and 2 guns per 1000 men was decided upon. The types of troops were put into chart form using numerous reference books, one I can particularly recommend is *Napoleonic Armies* by Ray Johnson. Within basic categories the ratio of different types of troops were put into percentage form utilising a single die roll when a brigade was created. Players had the option of what strength they wanted their formations, with top and bottom limits of 4000 and 2000 respectively. It may be possible at a later date to publish these lists and the associated troop ratings within these pages.

The next article will concentrate in depth on the turmoil which encompassed February of 1805.

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THE CAMPAIGN OF 1805 (Part 2)

by Ian Barstow

The expected clash between Austria and Russia occurred on the final day of January 1805. It had been the mildest winter on record, with no obvious hindrance to military manoeuvres and quartermasters reporting a glut of supplies. Both nations were confident of a quick and successful venture leading to a foothold in the rich Italian peninsula. Unfortunately for the Austrians it was Bennigsen's Russian II Corps which arrived in Italy first, disembarking north of the port of Ancona and lining the River Po above Bologna. They numbered 15000 men and 28 guns. Before any defensive positions could be prepared pickets reported the hurried advance of another II Corps - the Austrian one commanded by Generalleutnant Hadik and numbering 16000 men and 32 guns. The first battle of the year would be fought by two almost identically sized armies. However their circumstances were by no means similar.

The Po crossings above Bologna were limited to two bridges at the village of Cavallari and two fords about 5 miles east of them. Whilst the bridges were common knowledge the fords were not, neither side having had time to do any serious scouting. Bennigsen deployed strongly at the bridges with his jager brigade covering the fords and his few cavalry and grenadiers in reserve. Hadik decided to probe all along the line and pressurise the bridges whilst hoping to quickly find a ford.

The Austrian advance was quite rapid, although this turned out not to be an advantage as the units assigned to

finding fords came up empty handed whilst the attack on the bridges went ahead. After an hour of undistinguished action Hadik pulled back. He had failed to find a ford whilst his main attack had been easily repelled. As he ordered a retreat a courier from his right flank rode up informing him that a crossing had been found and that Jagers of both sides were disputing it, with the rifle-armed Austrians getting the better of the encounter. Hadik cursed, but the withdrawal continued and the battle petered out well before nightfall, with no Russian pursuit. Hadik had lost 1300 men to Bennigsen's 300 and 3 guns.

In Vienna, the Emperor Francis was furious. In the streets people were openly calling for Generalleutnant Hadik's dismissal and a few brave souls even questioned his own position. A Russian Army under Kutusov had entered East Galicia and was occupying Lemberg whilst Bennigsen was camped brazenly in The Romagna daring Hadik to try again. That gentleman was in the fortress of Mantua waiting for the arrival of the Archduke Charles - then he would teach the impudent mercenary a lesson. However, politics overtook any further fighting. From a position of strength the Emperor Alexander of Russia suggested that a peaceful solution to the crisis could be resolved. He would willingly cede the Romagna to Austria in return for the disputed border territory of West Galicia, which was currently being raided by Cossack bands. Alexander also promised to remove his forces from Italy and stay out. This latter convention was suitably convenient as he had just promised the same thing to Britain, for a small sum! Francis hummed and ha'd for a bit before accepting the deal. He would cede West Galicia immediately whilst Russia would return the compliment with the Romagna once she had sorted out the unruly locals who didn't fancy being run by anyone. Everybody seemed happy - The Austrians had their gateway to Italy whilst Russia had taken the first step to Alexander's great dream, the creation of a strong Polish kingdom loyal to him.

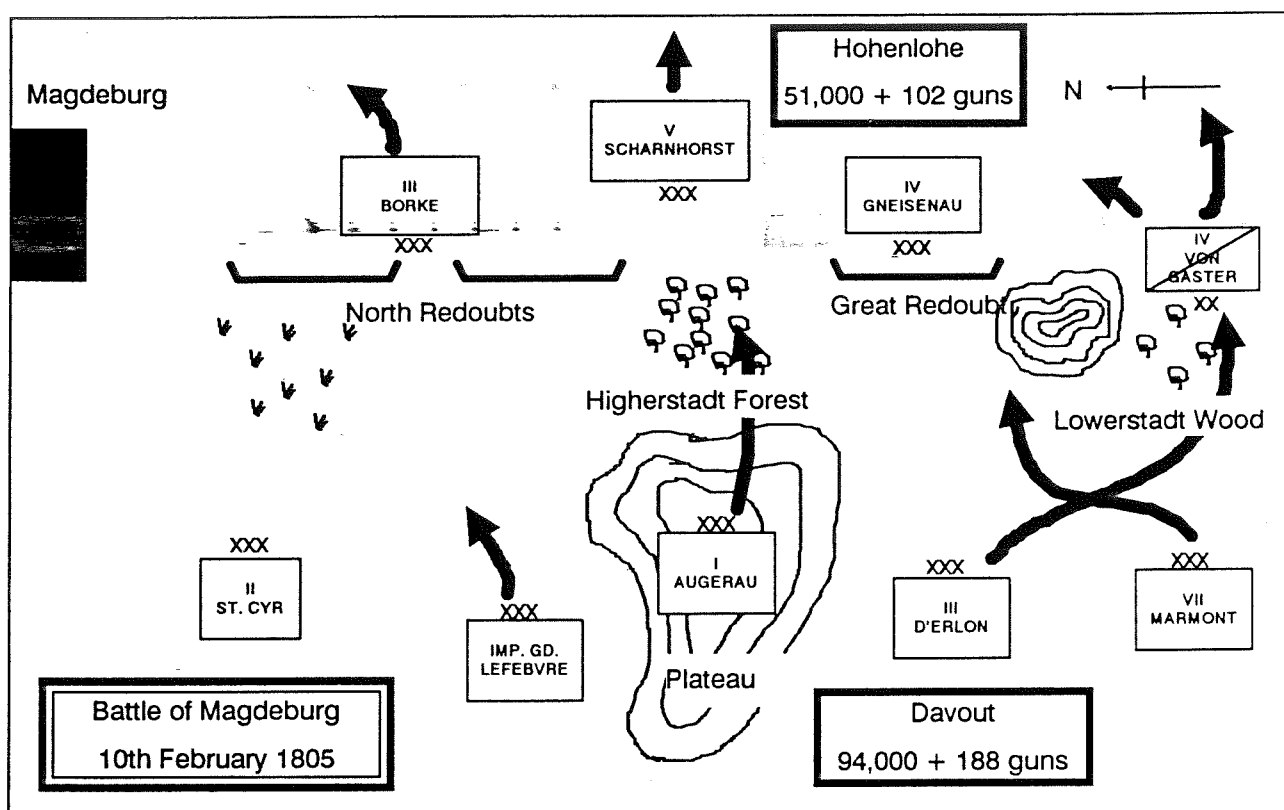
Elsewhere, people were not so happy. Britain had expected to quickly defeat the Spanish and impose a severe treaty on the Dons and their impudent Portuguese allies. Unfortunately for the British, the Spanish declined to co-operate with their plans. Firstly, their fleets stayed bottled up in port protected by enormous shore batteries at Cadiz and Barcelona daring the vaunted British Navy to sail in and take them on. Wisely the British decided against this policy and stayed at sea awaiting developments. The development, when it came, was not what Britain had in mind. The Spanish army en route to Egypt received instructions to stop off at British-held Malta. They arrived three days after the Turkish Army on their way to Morocco! Whilst the Turks had paid for landing rights and supplies the Spanish landed along the coast and promptly captured the island, slaughtering the 1000 British troops garrisoning it. The Turks could only look on amazed as the port changed ownership under their eyes.

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All this was too much for Britain. In parliament the Whigs were howling whilst the government could only sit in silence. Britain found herself powerless. She could not force a decisive naval action, and far too many ships were tied up against the French to swing the odds. On land the Spanish and Portuguese just waited for any British landings, confident that they would not come. They didn't. The government could not find a general capable of leading a large army to victory. Wellesley was in India and the rest were fools. Following the Russian lead they decided on diplomacy. A Lapse Of War similar to the Austro-Russian agreement was proposed wherein Spain would officially receive Portugal and Malta whilst Britain would receive nothing. It was a remarkable climb down and one which was received with unconcealed satisfaction by the rest of the European powers. Now it only remained for France to be knocked down a peg.

At the start of February Prussia and Britain signed a formal alliance, effectively splitting Europe into two power blocs, France-Austria on one hand and Britain-Prussia-Russia on the other. No-one dared guess which way Spain or Turkey would go. On February 3rd Napoleon declared war upon Prussia and a 94000 strong army under Marshal Davout invaded Magdeburg, the westernmost state of Prussia. Napoleon himself had been near the Italian border preparing to support Austria against Russia and he immediately struck camp and headed towards Prussia with the 20000 men of VI Corps. This attack left the rest of France weakly held by Bernadotte's Dutch Corps in Holland, Murat on the Spanish border and Soult covering

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the English Channel.

The invasion had completely surprised Prussia whose army was split in two, half facing the Russians in Warsaw under the Duke of Brunswick and the other half at Magdeburg commanded by Feld Marschall Prinz Hohenlohe. The Grande Armee under Davout thus fell upon Hohenlohe's 51000 Prussians outside Magdeburg. Despite being confounded by the speed of the French attack Hohenlohe had not been idle and he had already prepared a defensive position complete with substantial earthworks. However, the vigour of the French arrival seemed to shake him to his very foundations and he lapsed into a stupor from which he was unable to recover until it was too late. The battle of Magdeburg occurred began at 10:30 am on the 10th of February, 1805 with a huge but long range barrage from most of the 188 French guns present. Davout had easily outscouted the stationary enemy and realising the strength of the Prussian position he ordered General Marmont to detach half of his VII Corps to turn the enemy's left flank. Meanwhile he decided to feint against the Prussian right with Gouvion St. Cyr's II Corps supported by the Imperial Guard under Marshal Lefebvre. In the centre Augereau's massive 25000 man I Corps was to advance against what looked to be the weak point in the Prussian defence, the dense but traversable forest of Higherstadt which scouts reported was manned only by a screen of Prussian Reserve Infantry. On the French left Marmont and Drouet D'Erlon's III Corps were to smash the Prussian left under the auspices of Marshal Ney who was effectively made Wing Commander.

Against this plan the Prussians' strategy was simple. Hohenlohe had decided to do nothing. He ordered his corps to maintain and defend their current positions. Borcke's 3rd Korps held the North Redoubts but ignored the town of Magdeburg itself and Higherstadt Forest. Count von Gneisenau's 4th Korps held the left wing based upon the vast Great Redoubt with Oberst von Gasser's cavalry division covering the plain behind Lowerstadt Woods. I reserve was 5th Korps under Generalleutnant Scharnhorst, composed in part of second rate infantry, many of whom had prepared entrenchments.

The French attack went exactly as planned, with Hohenlohe's motionless defence offering few complications. Indeed the Prinz spent almost the whole day in his tent looking very tired and not appearing to realise the potential severity of his position. Left to their own recourse the Prussian Korps commanders made the fatal mistake of placing their infantry behind the redoubts and their cannon in the open. The result was that massive French counter-battery fire drove away the Prussian gunners leaving the infantry unsupported. On the left von Gasser managed to advance enough to get himself surrounded and promptly surrendered. This disaster was compounded when Marmont and D'Erlon swept around the flank of the Great Redoubt to meet Augereau who was slowly advancing through the Forest expecting an ambush which never materialised. At 15:30 Hohenlohe received news that Gneisenau's Korps had surrendered and with that he immediately gave orders for the remainder of the Prussian Army to retreat.

Ney personally supervised the mounted pursuit and an

hour later the field was devoid of living Prussians. Hohenlohe's losses amounted to 19649 men and 55 guns, of which 12881 men were prisoners along with 18 pieces of artillery. When Davout counted his casualties he found only 1171 men and 8 guns had been lost. It was by any standards a monumental victory. Amongst the prisoners was Count Gneisenau and all his staff. Hohenlohe retired towards Berlin in good order but poor heart.

The money points in Empires in Arms are worked out in dollars, so for instance in a quarter France's basic taxation is \$91 while Britain's is \$51 and Russia's is \$75. Added to this is trade using a system of port values which translate into dollars. This substantially bumps up Britain in particular. By comparison an infantry unit costs \$3 to build whilst cavalry costs \$15.

Earthworks and redoubts are worked out using a house rule. Each general in effect has an ability between one and six. This translates into a D6 roll with a modifier for being in position for more than a month. To succeed a general must roll less than his ability. Hohenlohe is a '1' but having been in Magdeburg since the start of the campaign he got a +1 modifier. Thus he had to roll one on a D6. Luckily for him he succeeded. There is a similar roll made if a general wishes to avoid combat altogether. Hohenlohe declined this roll having pulled off his redoubt coup.

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THE CAMPAIGN OF 1805 (Part 3)

by Ian Barstow

The news of Magdeburg spread through Europe like wild-fire. The once mighty Prussians had been crushed in the field defending what had been considered an impregnable position. It appeared that unless Britain could form some sort of cohesive coalition against Napoleon the French would destroy Prussia and leave Britain alone.

With this in mind the overworked Lord Chamberlain was sent to Berlin to go door knocking at the local embassies in the hope of canvassing a bit of support. This unfortunately coincided with vicious rumours from the Russian camp of the existence of a painting of one of Lord Chamberlain's descendants - Earl Chamberlain of Clagheaton - at Isandlwana (remember folks, this is wargaming) who having predicted the disaster to his C/O Colonel Pulein three days before - he was a noted clairvoyant - spent the entire battle with his horse's reins in one hand and his service revolver in his mouth ready to deny the Zulus such a respected prize. The painting, at the height of the battle alleges to show the Earl in such a pose whilst giving the order to the quartermaster to get more ammunition. Naturally with a revolver rendering him inarticulate the order was never carried out. The rest is history...

Ironically it was this vicious rumour which caused the Russians to temporarily lose their senses and in the heat of much chortling and reminiscing over the battle from a different age that had really happened the previous week the Czar's representative blinded himself to the newly discovered fact the Prussian High Command was to war what Hortense de Beauharnais was to street fighting. It was agreed that Russia would declare war on France on the first of March, the official date of the creation of the First Coalition.

Meanwhile the Prussians had actually been moving and in an attempt to halt the French advance on Berlin a small Corps of 4000 men marched into Hanover, destroyed the Grande Armée's principal depot which Davout had foolishly left unguarded and effectively cut the French supply line. At the same time the Hessians went from neutrality to secretly joining the First Coalition and they joined up with the Saxon Corps of General Ruchel in pillaging stray French supply columns running through Hesse. These two actions would buy Prussia time to defend Berlin and force Davout to either split the Grande Armée or move back along his line of march. It appeared to be a master stroke on the part of whoever advised the Prussians to do it.

On March 1st, 1805 Russia duly declared war on Prussia and to the Czar's surprise Austria remained neutral. However what Alexander considered to be a mistake turned out to be Napoleon's greatest political machination. Bennigsen's Russians were poised in Northern Italy clearly intending to honour their agreement with Austria by marching straight into French Lombardy in conjunction with a British corps which was to perform a naval landing at Toulon. This was part of the Coalition's Grand Strategy which the Allies were convinced would force the French on to the defensive and subsequently attain a parity of numbers for a conclusive field battle in Germany. As well as the manoeuvres described, the Czar himself landed at Hull with 20000 men and Bagration sailed for the North German coast with a further 15000. This was all the Russians felt they could spare as Austria was beginning to make growling noises and showing interest in Prussian territory. Luckily for the Coalition the Austrian Army was still in disgrace at home and public confidence would not support taking on so many enemies.

The Coalition plan was thus to provide Napoleon with more targets than he had armies and so force him to split the Grande Armée itself. At the same time the British landing at Toulon and another similar force at Brest would attempt to force out the French fleets in those two ports into the hands of the conveniently placed British squadrons who were waiting in blockade. It struck Russia that this was really a personal scheme of Britain to weaken the French fleet for her own future benefit and both the Czar and Prussia secretly agreed that this would not be a good idea. Indeed at one stage it was even suggested that the French might be tipped-off about this part of the plan. After all, one day Britain could be the enemy!

However in the end it was decided to let fate run its course and this it did. The British corps at Toulon failed to storm the city and thus the Southern Fleet was saved. In the north at Brest, however, all went according to plan and the French fleet was obliged to make a run for it to

avoid having Brest's own guns turned on them. The 14 French ships of the line led by the newly commissioned 100 gun Bonaparte attempted to navigate the narrow channel into the Atlantic against a fresh headwind which allowed the British squadron of 16 ships to bear down upon them. In the ensuing action Droits del Homme, 74, was sunk and partially blocked the channel. Two other French ships collided and subsequently scuttled themselves to avoid capture. Three other Frenchmen, all 74's deliberately ran themselves onto rocks before the wind changed and the remainder escaped. No British ships were seriously damaged apart from the Shannon, 36, whose Captain, Sir Maltravers Chamberlain of Rosyth, had been smoking cocaine the previous evening and refused a squadron signal to reduce sail. However, his single handed attack on three French 74's and the Bonaparte herself, plus the fact that he was the nephew of the British special envoy convinced the government to make him a Baronet rather than hang him. It is interesting to note that this inherent drug addiction subsequently brought up suggestions of clairvoyance and second-sight in later generations of the family.

This naval success coincided with the news the coalition had been waiting for - the retreat of the Grande Armée to secure its lines of communications. Davout had withdrawn the army back to Kassel where he besieged the Saxons and Hessians although an attempt to breach the walls failed due to a lack of heavy siege artillery. Some slight compensation was achieved by the capture of 2000 Hessian infantry, part of the Allied rear-guard. The Coalition successes came to an abrupt end however by Napoleon's aforementioned master-stroke. As Bennigsen's Russians prepared to enter Lombardy and devastate French-controlled Italy they were cordially informed by the Austrian government that French Lombardy was now Austrian Lombardy and that as the two nations were at peace no right of passage would be given. By this totally unforeseen move Napoleon had written 15000 Russians out of the immediate action and consigned them to a two month sea voyage around Italy before a landing on French soil could be effected. It was the turning point of the campaign, and the Coalition had been completely outwitted.

This now left Napoleon with the strategic initiative and he made use



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of it brilliantly. He turned VI Corps around at Metz and force marched back to Toulon. Outnumbering the 7000 British infantry nearly 3:1 he obliged them to surrender and in doing so convinced the wily Bennisen that the only place worth landing at was Corsica (which in due course would become a Russian pawn against France). Murat slowly moved towards Brest with the result that the British government panicked as it could not afford the loss of another 9000 infantry and they promptly took to their ships. To compound the Coalition's problems Davout received orders to leave a screen of Baden troops around Kassel supported by Bernadotte's Dutch whilst the Grande Armee would move past Hohenlohe contemptuously showing him their right flank and attack the Duke of Brunswick at Berlin before Bagration could land at Stettin to reinforce him. This was a huge gamble for the Emperor for if the Prussians nerves held, and Hohenlohe moved on Davout's flank then they would be cut to pieces. However, Napoleon had correctly surmised that Hohenlohe had lost his courage as well as his army and as the French marched within 10 miles of Hohenlohe's camp the geriatric Prussian did nothing to hinder them. This was too much for Brunswick and appropriately on April 1st he surrendered the capital to Davout along with Prussia's last field army.

The ramifications for Prussia were dear. Saxony and Hesse were ceded along with the province of Magdeburg (whose city gave Davout his title Duc de Magdeburg). Prussia also came out of the First Coalition and signed a 24 month enforced peace treaty with France. This left the Coalition in tatters. Alexander's trip to Hull had proved a total disaster. Not only had he wasted a lot of time and expense on the aborted expedition but his allergy to wheelks had again reared its ugly head and he sailed for St. Petersburg with the new Nom de Guerre of Alexander the Rash. He was also left thinking that Russia was in a damned tricky situation. Although technically still allied to Britain it was obvious that their only interest was self preservation and the systematic reduction of French naval capacity.

And so the Spring Campaign of 1805 ended, with France jubilantly victorious and hungrily looking east at Russia with its abettor Austria looking like a willing accomplice on a trip to Moscow. Prussia was already reduced to the status of a secondary power and Britain was sitting back planning on how she could take Portugal back from the Spanish. The Dons, in their turn were beginning to send out archaeologists to the newly conquered Egypt where they would undoubtedly carry on their great tradition for treating ancient cultures with kindness and respect. The Turks too were back in North Africa, with Morocco set to be the first piece in plans for a reconstituted Ottoman Empire



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THE CAMPAIGN OF 1805 (Part 4)

by Ian Bartsow

Well, you're thinking. So what's to write about in part 4 of this amazing and exciting masterpiece? France has come out dominant, I've made the compulsory cock up in part 3 by claiming that the Russians declared war on the Prussians when of course it should have read the French (although in hindsight I think I'll leave it the way it was) and everything was wrapped up nicely. So what else is there to write about.

It struck me that so many articles go about their subject in great depth yet are really bog-all good for Joe Wargamer because the real meat is left out. That is, the game mechanics. Sure enough, some go half heartedly into giving a few suggestions but by and large in my opinion they leave me thinking, sounds O.K but I haven't the time to prepare all this. What is needed is inspiration, so with that in mind I will attempt to explain the various house rules and mechanisms used in our campaign. Obviously a lot is relevant to the board game used - Empires in Arms - but much of what we did can be transposed to any suitable background game.

The nuts and bolts of Empires in Arms was retained. That being the movement and attrition system, the recruitment and economics and really anything that had nothing to do with actual combat. For battles we used the Editor's own Follow the Eagle 5 (you'd think he gets enough publicity without forcing me to write this) as I'm a computer wargaming addict and frankly I can't be bothered to leaf through a rule book when the machine is perfectly willing to do it for me. Thus by intending to convert the boardgame to tabletop the first amendments are needed. Obviously the game's combat system takes no account of the identity of individual units so some system of working out what was present was required. What I did was to work out army lists for every country which could actually field Army Corps using a percentage dice system with the troops split up into four categories: Infantry, Cavalry and either Guard or Line. Using all the reference books I could muster I worked out rough percentages for each army based upon the player's personal preferred date so for instance the Prussian player picked 1813, the French 1812, and so on. In fact most of the players picked their list within those two years already mentioned, although frankly It would not have mattered as the whole point of it is fun. If purists object to such a method then who cares?

Having mentioned the Prussians I have included their list along with the French at the end of this article for you to see the combatants of Magdeburg and so you can feel good as you think, "What a load of cobblers. I'd never rate the Old Guard like that!" The army lists are obviously set up for Follow the Eagle but you can see that with only minor tinkering they can be used with anything, being based on the ubiquitous letter-grading system. The Miscellaneous category at the end of each list is for units that are either fixed in strength or have a counter specifically representing them. For example artillery, which was fixed at 3 guns per 1000 men and militia. As for

my major sources these were Napoleonic Armies by Ray Johnson, Scotty Bowden's Empire 4 rules (the troop gradings only) the guidelines in Follow the Eagle 5 and my own knowledge (cue laughing). All are recommended although don't play Empire unless you have any or all of these: a degree/sense of humour/48 spare hours/your wife's permission. I only had one of these and thus was unable to play.

The final consideration was whether to generate all the armies on the map (about 40) or whether to simply roll up each force when you require it, and assume that next time it is required you simply roll it again. From a realism point of view the first is preferential; however from the bookkeeping angle and because some of the players wanted to see their womenfolk occasionally we decided on the latter. In fact it was not relevant, because no army fought twice.

By not having fixed armies the attrition and recruitment was used straight from the boardgame and calculated in gains or losses in round thousands. As we were playing at a Grand tactical level with one gun equalling one battery and one figure equalling 125 men this was easy. I should point out that the smallest non-artillery unit was the brigade of 2000 men for infantry, and 1000 men for cavalry. Each dice roll on the table equalled 1000 foot or 500 horse, and the owning player put them into the Corps he commanded as he felt appropriate. Thus the French sported 4000 man brigades and the Prussians 2000. Both had their advantages although it was generally felt that the Kaiser's blokes would have stood more of a chance if they had been in 3000's. FRENCH ARMY LIST

That pretty much covers combat. Whoever was spare amongst our group was umpire, although the computer is notorious for not allowing cheating. Generals were created in the same way. A chart of generals was provided for each nationality in order for immediate subordinates of corps level to be found to complement those characters with their own counters. The number of generals was relevant to the potential number of available corps, thus making sure there were plenty of options. As you will see from the Prussian list at the back they are graded for ability and troop loyalty as per the FTE rules. The actual gradings were obtained by converting the general lists in Avalon Hill's Napoleon's Battles. The activity rating was transferred to loyalty, there being five classes in each (8 to 4) in NB and Excellent to Despicable in FTE. The ability ratings were compared directly, but as there were only 4 in NB we decided that no general would be Despicable in both categories, so we crossed them over straight. It's probably not perfect but It'll do for me.

Naval actions were worked out using the Broadside system from Battle Honours with ship numbers scaled down to fit in with the 16 available within the system. What each ship was was simple. For every boat roll a D6. 1= 1st Rate, 2=2nd Rate, 3-5= 3rd Rate and six meant you were lumbered with a frigate